Amendments to the Claims

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of promoting extension of corneal nerve axon, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~ in need of the promotion of extension of the corneal nerve axon.

14. (Currently amended) A method of recovering decreased corneal sensitivity associated with corneal nerve damage, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~ in need of the recovery of corneal sensitivity.

15. (Currently amended) A method of treating dry eye associated with decrease of corneal sensitivity, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~ affected with dry eye.

16. (Currently amended) A method of treating corneal epithelium defect associated with decrease of corneal sensitivity, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~ having corneal epithelial defect.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the decreased corneal sensitivity is decreased corneal sensitivity after surgery.

18. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

19. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

20. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.